

Message Text

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54

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SUBJECT: MORALES BERMUDEZ IN AREQUIPA - THE REVOLUTION CONTINUES

1. PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ AND MOST OF HIS CABINET SPENT AUGUST 25 IN AREQUIPA. MORALES BERMUDEZ CARRIED OUT A SERIES OF CAREFULLY CONTROLLED MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, LABOR AND EDUCATIONAL GROUPS. IN THE EVENING THE PRESIDENT ATTENDED A SESSION OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND DELIVERED A SPEECH TO THE NATION.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE ADDRESS WAS TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE GOP "WILL NEVER MODIFY ITS COURSE OR ALTER ITS IDEOLOGY". MORALES BERMUDEZ PLEDGED THAT THE REVOLUTION REMAINS FAITHFUL TO ITS IDEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES AND THE SPIRIT OF BOTH CHRISTIANITY AND HUMANISM WHICH HE CALLED "THE GUIDING LIGHT" FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION. REFERRING TO THE STATE OF EMERGENCY, MORALES BERMUDEZ STATED THAT RECENT POLITICAL DECISIONS WERE TAKEN BECAUSE OF THE DANGER THAT THE ECONOMIC CRISIS COULD DEVELOP INTO A POLITICAL CRISIS. "THE FAR RIGHT AND THE FAR LEFT, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF STUDENT AND YOUNGSTERS, ATTEMPTED TO CREATE A CLIMATE OF CONFRONTATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT BY MEANS OF ESCALATING STRIKES AND VIOLENCE AGAINST PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY". MORALES BERMUDEZ BOWED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT PERMIT A FEW PERSONS "PERHAPS UNDER FOREIGN DIRECTION", TO CARRY OUT THEIR

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PLANS TO PREVENT SUCCESS OF "THE FIRST TRULY REVOLUTIONARY

EXPERIENCE" IN PERU. AND "WILL BE LIFTED AS SOON AS THERE IS INTERNAL PEACE AND TRANQUILITY".

3. DURING A DISCUSSION WITH AREQUIPA BUSINESSMEN, MORALES BERMUDEZ STRESSED THAT THE REVOLUTION "HAS NOT ENDED", BUT THAT THEORY WOULD HAVE TO BE ADJUSTED TO REALITY. HE SAID THAT "WE ARE WORKING TO AMEND AND RECTIFY" ERRORS FLOWING FROM PURE THEORY. MORALES BERMUDEZ DECLARED THAT POLITICAL STABILITY WAS ASSURED FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND THE GOP WOULD SOON COMPLETE ITS POLITICAL PROGRAM (NOT SPECIFICALLY REFERRED TO AS THE PLAN TUPAC AMARU). MORALES BERMUDEZ PROMISED THAT FOLLOWING MINISTERIAL APPROVAL, SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUGGEST MODIFICATIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE POLITICAL PROGRAM. THE GOP, OF COURSE, WOULD MAKE THE FINAL DECISION BUT MORALES BERMUDEZ CLAIMED THAT IT SEEKS "THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL PERUVIANS" IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. IN HIS ONLY REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE FUTURE CIVILIAN RULE, MORALES BERMUDEZ DECLARED THAT "AFTER ACHIEVING OUR (MILGOV) OBJECTIVES, WE WILL SAY 'MISSION ACCOMPLISHED' AND THEN SEE WHAT HAPPENS".

4. COMMENT: SECURITY WAS TIGHT AND MORALES BERMUDEZ' CONTACT WITH THE PUBLIC LIMITED. REPRESENTATIVES FROM CAREFULLY SELECTED GROUPS MET WITH HIM AT HIS HOTEL. APART FROM AN AIRPORT TO HOTEL MOTORCADE, HIS EXPOSURE TO THE PUBLIC WAS MINIMAL. HE DID NOT INDICATE AN EARLY END TO SECURITY MEASURES. THE MESSAGE FROM AREQUIPA WHICH WILL BE OFTEN REPEATED IN ONGOING PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN IS THAT IMPORTANT POLITICAL MODIFICATIONS SHOULD BE INTERPRETED AS PROCEDURAL READJUSTMENTS RATHER THAN EVIDENCE OF A FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL SHIFT.
SMITH

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